



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

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Framingham Mayor Personally Calls NRT & Teamsters Back To Negotiating Table To Try To Avert a School Bus Strike on Monday

FRAMINGHAM – The Framingham City Council and the Framingham School Committee held an emergency joint session meeting Saturday morning, May 6, to discuss tools, to avert a potential bus strike on Monday, May 8.

A strike would mean more than 5,000 students would have to find another way to and from school. A school bus strike could increase traffic near schools, during the morning and afternoon commute, for all City residents.

Before the executive session meeting ended, the City Council and the School Committee authorized the Mayor to contact NRT and the Teamsters union to let them know of the votes taken in today's emergency meeting.

As a result of those phone calls, Mayor Charlie Sisitsky was able to get NRT and the Teamsters to reconvene negotiations this afternoon.

The bus drivers are in contract negotiations with the public school district's bus contractor NRT. The drivers unionized as Teamsters after NRT signed a contract with Framingham Public Schools.

Mayor Sisitsky, Framingham Superintendent of Schools Bob Tremblay, Chief Financial Officer Louise Miller, and Framingham Public School District's Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch IV were in attendance for this morning's executive session meeting in the Blumer room at the Memorial Building.

During this morning's meeting, the City Council, on a motion by at-large Councilor George King, voted 9-0 to authorize the City to re-bid the bus contract for 4 years, starting with the 2023-24 school year. That vote, however, expires if a school bus strike happens on Monday.



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The 9-member School Committee took a second motion to support the re-bidding of the school bus contract, and it was unanimous. There was no deadline on that motion.

Framingham Public Schools is in year two of a 5-year contract with NRT. The private bus company is contracted to provide 77 drivers for 77 school bus routes, but has not met that number the entire school year.

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